

See, likewise, every thing at the fair, from operas and plays, down to the Savoyard's raree shows. Every thing is worth seeing once; and the more one sees, the less one either wonders or admires."¹ Letter CXCIV, "I know of no one thing more offensive to a company, than inattention and distraction."² Letter CLXVI rules on talking,

"Talk often, but never long.

Tell stories very seldom

Take, rather than give, the tone of the company you are in.

Avoid as much as you can, in mixed companies argumentative, polemical conversations.

Avoid speaking of yourself.

Never speak of yourself at all.

A frank, open and ingenuous exterior, with a prudent interior; to be upon your own guard, and yet by a seeming natural openness, to put people off theirs.

Neither retail nor receive scandal, willingly.

Mimicry is amusement of low minds.

Gentlemen of high degree refrain from swearing.

Loud laughter is the mirth of the mob.

Whatever you say, say with pleasing countenance, voice, etc."³

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 155, Letter CXLVIII.

2. op. cit., p 253, Letter CXCIV.

3. op. cit., p 195 ff, Letter CLXVI.